



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 26, 2010

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ADHS Continues to Seek Input Regarding Pending Behavioral Health Changes

As a result of recent budget reductions to state funded behavioral health programs for the coming fiscal year beginning in July, the Arizona Department of Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) is meeting with stakeholder groups around the state to hear suggestions and input and to respond to concerns and questions regarding the upcoming changes – but time is running out.

During the month of April, ADHS/DBHS has partnered with its Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs) and local providers, to host community forums throughout the state in which behavioral health service recipients, family members, members of the general public, providers and other stakeholders have voiced questions, comments, concerns, and ideas regarding the many important decisions that must be made by the end of April to implement the budget cuts for behavioral health services for individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid.

“Our commitment to the individuals and families we serve is to work collaboratively during this very challenging time to maintain quality care, continue to promote recovery, and to serve as many people as we can with the limited funds we have available,” said Dr. Laura Nelson, Acting Deputy Director for the Division of Behavioral Health Services. “We have made a dedicated effort to get input and recommendations from our stakeholders before making what will certainly be some very difficult decisions.”

ADHS/DBHS has three dedicated project teams who have been conducting research by focusing on (a) shifting to a medication only benefit for adults with serious mental illness who do not qualify for Medicaid, (b) maintaining a comprehensive and effective statewide crisis system for anyone experiencing a behavioral health crisis, and (c) clarifying how limited supportive housing benefits will be provided for adults with serious mental illness.

Each project team includes peer and family member representatives.

ADHS/DBHS also launched a new website (<http://www.azdhs.gov/bhs/updates/>) to provide up-to-date information about these important issues. The site has a section for Frequently Asked Questions, which is updated weekly using questions and concerns submitted by the public as well as a section on basic information about Arizona's public behavioral health system. An excerpt from the Calendar of Events, which highlights the remaining forums is listed below.

Those with questions or concerns are encouraged to attend one of these forums, send an email to dbhsinfo@azdhs.gov, or call DBHS at 1-800-867-5808.

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| Week of April 26th Event | Date | Time | Location |
|---|-----------|--|---|
| Magellan CAC @ Wickenburg | 4/26/2010 | 1:00 - 2:30pm | Wickenburg, AZ 634 W. Wickenburg Way, Suite D |
| Magellan CAC @ Glendale | 4/26/2010 | Session 1 - 3:30pm Session 2 - 4:30pm | Glendale, AZ 7020 N. 56th Ave. |
| Magellan CAC @ Osborn | 4/27/2010 | 10:00 - 11:30am | Phoenix, AZ 3640 W. Osborn Rd., Suite 1 |
| Magellan CAC @ Park North | 4/27/2010 | 1:30 - 2:30pm | Phoenix, AZ 702 W. Dunlap Ave. |
| Magellan CAC @ Cave Creek | 4/27/2010 | 3:00 - 4:30pm | Phoenix, AZ 14040 N. Cave Creek Rd., Suite 203 |
| Cenpatico Community Forum John Calvin Presbyterian Church | 4/27/2010 | 5:30 - 7:00pm | Apache Junction, AZ 1130 East Broadway Ave. |
| DBHS Let's Talk Forum Mohave Community College | 4/28/2010 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | Lake Havasu City, AZ 1977 Acoma Blvd. West, Room 303 |
| Magellan CAC @ Saguario | 4/28/2010 | 3:00 - 4:30pm | Phoenix, AZ 3227 E. Bell Rd., Suite 170 |
| Cenpatico Community Forum Rim Country Health & Retirement Community Room | 4/28/2010 | 5:30 - 7:00pm | Payson, AZ 807 W. Longhorn Rd. |
| Magellan CAC @ West McDowell | 4/29/2010 | 10:30 - 11:30am | Phoenix, AZ 5030 W. McDowell Rd., Suite 16 |
| Magellan CAC @ South Central | 4/30/2010 | 10:30am - 12:00pm | Phoenix, AZ 1616 E. Roeser Rd. |
| Magellan CAC @ Centro Esperanza | 4/30/2010 | 1:30 - 3:00pm | Mesa, AZ 310 S. Extension |